Prawn Culture Project in West Bengal

1371. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Prawn Culture Project in West Bengal with the financial assistance from the Department of Bio-technology and

(b) if so, the name of the firm and its location and the year of commissioning of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology at present is not supporting any prawn culture project in West Bengal. However recently the Department has received a Reasarch & Development project on development of semi-intensive farming practices for culture of tiger prawn from West Bengal. This is under processing.

World position of Science and Technology manpower

1372. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the world position of Science and Technology manpower of India in terms of number and quality in bio-technology;

(b) what efforts are being made to be in the forefront of these technologies;

(c) how does India's situation compare with U.S.A. Europe and Japan; and

(d) what are the time-bound programmes to cope up with these technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Biotechnology is a multi-disciplinary area involving physical sciences, life sciences, engineering sciences etc. Furthermore this whole area is new and developing very rapidly. In view of its scientific and industrial importance, all developed countries have launched major programmes of manpower development in this multi-disciplinary area. India has also launched such programmes for the last 8—10 years in particular. Under these rapidly changing conditions, it is very difficult to precisely state India's position with reference to other countries in the world.

(b) 25 leading universities and other institutions are currently being supported by the Department to initiate and support specific programmes of manpower development at Master's and post-doctoral levels provide multi-disciplinary training. About 300 graduates are passing out every year from these institutes. In addition a number of thrust areas in Research and Development programmes in agriculture human health, afforestation and environment, animal husbandry, aquaculture and industrial biotechnology have been identified for research funding and support. Besides many of the products of indigenous research have been scaled up as demonstration programmes.

(c) It is clear from various reports that are available that even advanced countries like USA, Europe and Japan have launched major manpower training programmes in the area of biotech-

nology for dealing with specific products and technology development. Biotechnology being a multidisciplinary area, it is difficult to make exact comparisons amongst and between developed and developing countries.

(d) As explained at (b) above a number of time-bound technology and product development programmes have been launched under the aegis of DBT ICAR ICMR and other agencies. In addition a new company called Biotech Consortium of India Limited has been set up by a group of financial institutions and industries for promoting technology development from Indian academic institutions to commercial level and for industrial exploitation.

Technology know-how of insecticides for control of mosquitoes

1373. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether technology know-how of insecticides for control of mosquitoes and mosquito Larvicide, developed and produced by CSIR Laboratories has been commercialised; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; alongwith the names of the parties, their installed capacity and terms for transfer of such know-how.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) No, Sir. A controlled release formulation of abate (mosquito larvicide) developed by the National Chemical Laboratory Pune, for control of anophelic larve and formulation of Bascillus Sphericus, a bilogical strain for control of mosquito larvicide, developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow are under field trials.

(b) Does not arise.

Insecticide formulations processes developed by national chemical Laboratory

1374. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the new generation Insecticides and Formulations Processes being developed by National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, which could replace the existing ones which have become ineffective or environmentally hazardous for better environment; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether New Generation Insecticides and formulation processes have since been commercialised; if so, the names and details of the parties with addresses and on what terms/royalty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune has developed a neem based environmentally friendly insecticide and a controlled release formulation based on third generation insecticides carbofuran; both these are undergoing field trials. However, it has not developed new generation synathetic insecticides.

(b) Does not arise.